

densities? If not, colonists must have faced a daunting journey towards the Orpington area – open farmland, suburban gardens and the M25 motorway having to be negotiated, with individual butterflies needing to fly many miles from the nearest known colonies. The contraction and spread of the range of *camilla* has been well documented, and explanations for the phenomenon, at least on a macro scale, have included climatic shifts combined with changes in the patterns of woodland management. Interesting explanations of changes in range are given by Pollard (1979, *Ecological entomology*, **4**: 61-74) and Dennis (1992, *The ecology of butterflies in Britain*), but whatever the answer, there is considerable pleasure in seeing such an attractive butterfly attempting to establish itself in one's local patch.– PAUL SOKOLOFF, 4 Steep Close, Green Street Green, Orpington, Kent BR6 6DS.

Recurrence of *Callicera aurata* Rossi (= *aenea* Fabr.) (Dip.: Syrphidae) in North Hampshire

On 10 July 1996 a specimen of *Callicera aurata* Rossi flew to m.v. light at Wake's Cottage, Selborne, along with 302 moths of 94 species. During that part of July, significantly enough, the blossom on next-door's Tulip Tree *Liriodendron tulipifera* had been attracting large numbers of Diptera and Hymenoptera. When I reported the first Selborne occurrence in August 1995 (*Ent. Rec.* **108**: 48), I raised the problem that this rare insect was associated with pine, of which there is a local paucity, but recent published work notes that larvae have been found in a water-filled rot-hole in beech (Stubbs, 1996, *British Hoverflies, Second Supplement*). Mr Nigel Wyatt of the Natural History Museum kindly identified both the 1995 and 1996 specimens.
– ALASDAIR ASTON, Wake's Cottage, Selborne, Hampshire GU34 3JH.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: As far as I am aware this is the first record of *Callicera aurata* attracted to a m.v. trap, and it is certainly one of the most interesting records of hoverflies attracted to m.v. light. *C. aurata* is certainly a scarce species, but since the recording scheme became active again in 1991 it has become apparent that it is by no means as rare as was formerly believed. Records of adults suggest that it is by no means confined to woodland, with records from heathland and even a suburban garden; it therefore seems likely that a variety of trees support larvae, but rot holes in beech are almost certainly the main larval habitat. As far as I am aware, there is no association with pine, although a relative *C. rufa* is known principally from Caledonian pine forests. The recording scheme would welcome further records of hoverflies at m.v. light and I would be happy to identify material if accompanied by data comprising date of capture, place of capture and a four figure grid reference.– ROGER MORRIS, 3 Lindale Mount, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF2 0BH.